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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Letter No. 2286

Oct. 30, 1986

## MORE ON '87 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The voluntary paid land diversion for the 1987 feed grain program requires that farmers wanting to participate must convert 15 pct of their feed grain acreage base to acreage conservation reserve. This voluntary 15 pct paid diversion in combination with the 20 pct acreage reeduction announced Sept. 29 means farmers can set aside 35 pct of their feed grain base acreage. The U.S. Dept of Agric also announced that payment rates for the voluntary paid land diversion are: corn, \$2.00 per bushel; sorghum, \$1.90; barley, \$1.60; and oats 80-cents. The 1987 target prices are: Corn, \$3.03 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.88; barley, \$2.60; and oats, \$1.60. Loan rates for the 1987 feed grain crops are: Corn, \$1.82 per busheel; sorghum, \$1.74; barley, 94-cents; and rye \$1.55. A marketing loan program will not be implemented for the 1987 feed grain crops.

## SOME RICE PROGRAM PROVISION ANNOUNCED

Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng announced a 35 pct acreage reduction for the 1987 rice program. The national average loan rate will be the \$6.84 per hundredweight, and the target price will be \$11.66 per hundredweight. Other rice program provisions will be announced at a later date.

## SIGNUP PERIOD/ ADVANCE PAYMENTS ANNOUNCED

Farmers may sign up for the 1987 feed grains, upland cotton and rice programs between Nov. 17 and March 30. In announcing the dates, the Dept of Agric also reminded farmers that the 1987 wheat program signup began Oct. 1 and will continue through March 30. Wheat and feed grain farmers participating in the programs may request 40 pct of their estimated deficiency payments when they sign up and upland cotton and rice producers may request 30 pct. Also at signup, feed grain producers may request 50 pct of their estimated diversion payments. USDA estimates deficiency payments as \$2.10 per bushel for wheat, \$1.21 for corn, \$1.14 for sorghum, \$1.11 for barley, 55-cents for oats, 27.15-cents per pound for upland cotton, and 4.82-cents for rice. Fifty percent of the advance deficiency and diversion payments will be paid in cash and the rest in generic commodity certificates.

## PRICE REPORTING CHANGED TO MARKET YEAR

Effective this year, the U. S. Dept of Agric will report its major crop price series on a market-year basis, instead of a season-average basis. The years are June-May for wheat, oats and barley; Sept.-Aug. for corn, soybeans and grain sorghum; and Aug.-July for rice.

REGS GUARANTEE  
RIGHTS OF FARM  
CREDIT SYTEM  
BORROWERS

The Farm Credit Administration has issued regulations that will guarantee borrower and stockholder rights in their dealings with the Farm Credit System. Because of certain changes between the proposed and final regulations, the public will be given 30 days to comment on provisions that may be controversial. The regulations are in the Oct. 28 issue of the Federal Register.

EXPORT  
ENHANCEMENT  
ACTIVITIES

The Commodity Credit Corporation has accepted more export enhancement bids, according to a report from the U.S. Dept. of Agric. One was for an export bonus to cover a sale of 25,000 metric tons of barley malt to the Philippines. Another was to cover a sale for 15,000 metric tons of wheat flour to Zaire. Two were for sales of 18,000 metric tons of durum wheat and for 20,000 tons of hard red winter wheat to Yugoslavia.

MORE CATTLE  
ON FEED

Three percent more cattle and calves were on feed on Oct. 1 this year in the 13 states making quarterly reports to the U.S. Dept. of Agric than last year. The total on feed on that date was almost 8-1/4 million head. However, that total was down 9 pct. below 1984. Placement of cattle and calves on feed during the July-Sept. quarter totaled 6-1/3 million, up 15 pct from last year and up 1 pct. from 1984. Cattle feeders expect to market nearly 5-1/2 million head during the Oct.-Dec. quarter, 3 pct. above the fourth quarter last year but 2 pct below 1984. (For more statistical info, call 202-447-6880.)

USDA TO STUDY  
GROWTH HORMONE

A bovine growth hormone that occurs naturally in cattle will be studied by U.S. Dept of Agric economists to analyze the potential economic effects of its use in dairy cattle. Studies show that the hormone, when administered to dairy cattle, significantly increases milk yields. It's expected the study will be completed by mid to late 1987.

COCOA PRODUCTION  
AT RECORD LEVEL

Chocolate lovers can relax. World cocoa bean production for the coming year is forecast to be slightly above the record levels of the last two years. However, the picture isn't quite as clear as to whether the prices will be up, the same or lower. Much will depend on how much cocoa is put into storage and held off the market in efforts to keep prices strong. (For more info, call 202-382-8910.)

Hens, about 229 million of them, in the 20 major egg production states laid 4 billion 630 million eggs in September, and that's up slightly from production for the same month last year, according to the U.S. Dept of Agric. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2123.

MORE CITRUS,  
LESS OTHER  
FRUITS

If forecasts come true, U.S. citrus production this year will be 14 pct higher than last, despite fewer acres of bearing trees, according to the U.S. Dept of Agric. The production for all types of citrus this year is forecast at nearly 12-1/2 million tons. Orange output is 14 pct higher, grapefruit is 9 pct, and lemons 35 pct. The 1986 noncitrus crop (major tree fruits, grapes and cranberries) is forecast to be down 8 pct, mostly grapes.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

COMMODITY PROGRAMS..The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced sign-up periods for the 1987 commodity programs and a major plan to take grain land out of production next spring. Orville Overboe with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service outlines the details of these programs. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

NEW TAX LAWS AND AGRICULTURE...USDA economist Terry Townsend describes some of the changes in the new tax law recently signed by President Reagan, and how these changes will affect agriculture. Vic Powell interviews.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS...Federal agricultural programs were altered by the 99th Congress during the last days before adjournment. USDA economist Terry Townsend reviews those changes and their impact on agricultural producers. Vic Powell

1987 BUDGET AND AGRICULTURE...The fiscal year 1987 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture contains a number of funding level changes that can affect program operations during the year. Stephen Dewhurst, director, USDA Office of Budget, focuses on these changes. Vic Power interviews.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN U.S....U.S. agricultural exports are the weakest since the 1970's, while imports of agricultural products continue to rise. USDA economist Steve MacDonald comments on ththese and other factors contributing to the current trade situation in the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

FROM OUR RADIO

AGRICULTURE USA #1535...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The Agriculture Department has a special force of about a hundred people who serve in other countries. These people gather data, promote U.S. farm products overseas and generally work as American representatives of agricultural interests. Doug Wakefield talks with some of these members of USDA's foreign service about the unique qualities of their jobs.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1524...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1987 commodity program options; 1987 feed grain land diversion; Economists to study impact of bovine growth hormone; New neighbors for farmers.

CONSUMER TIME #1016...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Preparing latchkey kids; Picking a good investment; Rural areas face city problems; Personal stereo perils; Aging and fat.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Nov. 5, Livestock and poultry outlook; Thurs, Nov. 6, Vegetable situation; Fri, Nov. 7 Cotton and wool situation; Mon, Nov. 10, U.S. crop production report, World supply and demand outlook, Soviet production report; Tues, Nov. 11 (Holiday, Veterans Day); Wed, Nov. 12, Crop and weather update, world crop production, world oilseed situation, world cotton situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Brian Baxter (Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN) and Bill Ray (Agrinet Farm Net, Richmond, VA) left Oct 30 with the U.S. Feed Grain Council on a two-week market assessment mission to Bulgaria, Egypt and Turkey. Brian said he hopes to be back in time to attend the NAFB meeting in Kansas City, and if anyone wants to know more about the trip to see him there ... If you missed it in the NAFB Inside Report, be now informed: Ed Johnson (Agri Broadcasting Net, Columbus, OH) was one of six who received Distinguished Alumnus Awards from Ohio State Univ for 1986. Our congratulations!! ... We also learn that Stewart Doan (Arkansas Radio net, Little Rock) has been nominated to a five year term on the Board of Governors of the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Since he and Farm Bureau president Nicky Hargrove are the only nominees to fill two positions, we understand election is virtually assured. Again, our congratulations!! ... We also learn that Ed Slusarczyk (Ag Radio Network, Utica, NY) was given an honorary membership to the Agricultural Teacher's Association of New York. The award was given to Ed for providing incentives to the ag teachers in the state both through his broadcasts and as a member of the New York State Education Department Advisory Committee. And still again, our congratulations!! ... Our Brenda Curtis-Heiken (USDA Radio Service) turned professor for a day recently. She was guest lecturer at Salem College in Salem, West Virginia, and spoke to five communication classes during the day and to broadcast majors and others in the evening. She returned tired but intrigued with the enthusiasm and eagerness of students ... Dave Carter (Radio-TV in USDA's Economic Management group) is looking for Public Affairs Specialist at the GS-11 pay level, with potential for promotion to GS-12. He's looking for someone with proven abilities to write, narrate and produce radio and TV programs. For more information, call Margaret-Whitley at 202-447-6130. Dave's number is 202-786-1494.

*Jim Johnson*

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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